

GP-4447

From: kim pottlitzer [pottlitzer@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2006 9:18 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Package Rule

I am writing to voice my support of the proposed changes to the WIC program. These changes will represent the first comprehensive changes to WIC packaging since 1980, and they are long overdue.

The new packaging will not only represent current nutritional science research and dietary recommendations, but will also align WIC packaging with the current infant feeding practice guidelines set forth by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The new guidelines support improved nutrient intakes, provide greater consistency with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the dietary recommendations set forth for infants and children under two years of age.

In addition to the aforementioned changes, the new packaging will better address emerging public health issues, such as obesity in adults and adolescents. The new packaging provides less saturated fat and cholesterol and encourages breast feeding, which can help reduce obesity rates in women and children.

Lastly, the new food packaging will provide a wider selection of more diverse foods. This change reflects an understanding of the needs of our ever-changing and multicultural society. It will also provide state agencies with increased flexibility in administering culturally appropriate food packages.

Sincerely,

Kim Pottlitzer

University of Houston nutrition student

GP-4448

From: Wendy Schwartz [wendyisadancer@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2006 8:16 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear WIC Headquarters,

I am writing in reference to Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule.

I believe individuals who receive assistance should be allowed to continue to use their coupons to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets. I am neither a single mother nor a low-income individual, and I am writing out of concern and support for those who are. Fresh fruits and vegetables are so important to everyone's diets, especially low-income single mothers and their children. And farmers would surely lose income if such purchases were no longer covered.

In order to strengthen the connection between local farmers and low-income consumers:

I ask that USDA "Do no harm" to the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). Please do not reduce FMNP funding or establish procedures that would adversely affect its operation or effectiveness.

I support the proposed regulations, especially the provision that makes farmers' markets eligible WIC vendors.

Where states or tribes currently operate WIC FMNPs, please allow state and tribal agencies to coordinate the implementation and coordination of the new fruit and vegetable program with the WIC FMNP.

I believe farmers' markets should be allowed to participate in the WIC program as seasonal vendors, to be exempt from the "WIC-only" cost containment requirements, and not be required to carry a full-range of WIC food package products.

I believe there should be no limit placed on the type of fresh fruits and vegetables that may be purchased with the new fruit and vegetable coupons.

I deeply hope that WIC recipients will be able to continue to shop at farmers' markets, and that local farmers will continue to benefit from the sales they make to WIC customers.

Thank you for your attention and consideration, Wendy Schwartz Boston, Massachusetts

GP-4449

Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule CommeFrom. Bobbie Sproat
[bsproat@penfield fm]

Sent. Sunday, November 05, 2006 1:06 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule. Comment

To Whom It Concerns

I understand that proposed changes to the WIC program will change benefits so that fruits and vegetables are a part of the overall food package. While I applaud this change, I also understand that the ability of WIC recipients to purchase those fruits and vegetables at local farmers markets is now in jeopardy.

I am writing to urge the USDA

- a not to reduce FMNP (Farmers' Market Nutrition Program) funding or establish procedures that would adversely affect its operation or effectiveness
- b to adopt regulations that make farmers' markets eligible WIC vendors
- c to allow state and tribal agencies to coordinate the implementation and coordination of the new fruit and vegetable program with the WIC FMNP
- d to allow farmers' markets to participate in the WIC program as seasonal vendors, to be exempt from the "WIC-only" cost containment requirements, and not to be required to carry a full-range of WIC food package products.

In short, I believe that there should be no limit placed on the type of fresh fruits and vegetables that may be purchased with the new fruit and vegetable coupons. I strongly urge you to consider this view in your deliberations over regulatory changes.

Thank you for your consideration

--

Barbara J. Sproat

GP-4451

From: Ginger Deason [gingerdeason@yahoo.com]

Sent Monday, November 06, 2006 5:05 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Director Daniels,

My name is Ginger Deason and I am writing to voice my STRONG support for the proposed revisions to the WIC food packages and my specific strong support for inclusion of vouchers to purchase fruits and vegetables and the ability to use them at farmers' markets. This will be a win-win situation for everyone involved: it will help mothers in need be able to acquire nutritionally balanced, fresh food for themselves and their children, it will support local agriculture by allowing those mothers to purchase from local farms; and it will support the local economy, because by supporting local farmers we support the local economy.

I would like to add, however, that I believe some changes should be made. First of all, I encourage you to incorporate the Institute of Medicine's full recommendations for the amount of fruits and vegetables necessary for a nutritionally adequate children's food package as soon as possible. That is a very important piece that should not be overlooked or left out.

Secondly, it is important to coordinate the proposed new, expanded use of the WIC "cash-value food instrument" with the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), including automatically allowing WIC FMNP-qualified markets and farmers to redeem the new WIC cash-value food instrument. This will make it easier for everyone to participate in this new and great plan.

Again, I am very much in favor of this new ruling and I am excited to be able to express my support and concerns regarding it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ginger Deason
816 Merrie Rd
Raleigh, NC 27606
gingerdeason@yahoo.com

GP-4452

From Susan Sanders [s_sanders4@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 4:36 PM

To WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: RE: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77 Comments on WIC Food Packages Proposed Rule,

Nov. 6, 2006

RE Comments on WIC Food Packages Proposed Rule,
Docket ID Number 0584-AD77

Dear Ms. Daniels,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the USDA's proposed regulations that substantially revise the WIC Food Packages. Since I provide assistance to mothers who want to breastfeed their babies as a private practice lactation consultant in Stanislaus Co, CA, I am pleased to support these long-awaited reforms. I commend the Department for proposing important changes to WIC that are consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and align with the American Academy of Pediatrics infant feeding recommendations. I believe that, when implemented, they will greatly strengthen the WIC program's ability to improve the nutrition and health status of millions of families.

Thank You,
Sincerely,
Susan Sanders

GP-4453

From: Theresa Podoll [dtpodoll@drtel.net]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 4 13 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Director Patricia N. Daniels
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Services, USDA
3101 Parke Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

RE. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
Revisions in the WIC Food Packages; Proposed Rule, Federal Register, August 7, 2006
[Docket No. 0584-AD77]

Dear Director Daniels,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed revisions to the WIC food packages. I strongly support these revisions and very strongly support the vouchers to purchase fruits and vegetables at farmers markets. I know from first-hand experience how attractive fresh fruits and vegetables at a farmers market are to kids and to their parents. Access to this unparalleled freshness is a vital link to not only good nutrition but also education about where their food comes from and the care that goes into producing that food.

I would like to encourage that the following changes be incorporated into the final rule:

1.) coordinating and expanding the use of the WIC "cash-value food instrument" with the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), including automatically allowing WIC FMNP-qualified markets and farmers to redeem the new WIC cash-value food instrument,

2) including the Institute of Medicine's full recommendations for the amount of fruits and vegetables necessary for a nutritionally adequate children's food package, as well as that of their mother's

Sincerely,

Theresa Podoll
9824 79th ST SE
Fullerton, ND 58441-9725
701-883-4416

GP-4454

From: Myrna Aguilar [MGAguilar@co riverside ca us]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 12:56 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: WIC food packages changes

We needed changes in WIC packages!

Most changes are for the better. Specially no juice in first year of life and less juice in general for rest of WIC clients. This is the best decision ever. specially w/ the increase in tooth decay, obesity and type II Diabetes. Great job! Congratulations!!!!

Less eggs. not sure. It's an inexpensive high protein food.

Whole grains, other dairy options/ substitutes and vegetables.... The best!!!

I like the fact that our packages will better reflect the wide variety of clients that we serve

Congratulations on WIC package improvements!

GP-4455

From Jill Bussiere [jdt@itol.com]

Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 10:20 AM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject "Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule"

Dear Director Daniels,

I support the proposed revisions to include the full recommendations for fruits and vegetables necessary for children's good nutrition. Studies have shown that fruits and vegetables are lacking in our American diets, and children especially need healthy diets to develop strong bones, muscles, and minds. Making fresh vegetables and fruits more available to lower income children will increase their health, and thus the well-being of our entire country.

I strongly support the inclusion of vouchers to purchase fruits and vegetables and the ability to use them at farmers' markets. I used to sell at farmers' markets, and can tell you that the quality of fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets is fresh and good, and healthy. In addition, such vouchers will support a fresh and healthy local food system, less reliant upon fossil fuels and continental transportation. I participated in the WIC voucher program, and I think it is a boon for all involved.

Sincerely,

Jill Bussiere, N5942 Meadow Rd, Kewaunee, WI 54216

GP-4456

From: creminendes@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 12:31 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: creminendes@comcast.net
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

Patricia N. Daniels, Director Supplemental Food Programs Division Food and Nutrition Service U.S. Department of Agriculture 3101 Park Center Drive Room 528 Alexandria, VA 2230

Dear Ms. Daniels,

I have agreed to sign this form letter and first I would like to let you know that I have seen first hand the wonderful work that WIC does in Middletown and the help that it provides to families.

I am involved in volunteering in organizing Community Gardening, Backyard Gardening, Community Supported Agriculture and access to fresh foods via local produce for Farmers Market. Making these connections are all too important. Henceforth, I would like to express my support for the proposed revisions to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food packages, as published in the Federal Register on August 7, 2006.

Since its creation in 1972, WIC has provided nutrition education, supplemental foods, and medical referrals to millions of low-income pregnant women, mothers and children. In 2000 alone, the WIC program served 54 percent of all U.S. infants and 25 percent of all U.S. children ages 1 year through 4 years. Unlike food stamps or other human services programs, WIC provides specific nutrients to these populations based on their needs at various stages of development. Given that only minor changes have been made to the WIC food packages since the 1980s, however, they no longer reflect the best nutritional practices to meet the needs of beneficiaries.

As a pediatrician and child health advocate who serves families that participate in the WIC program, I strongly support the changes proposed to the WIC food packages, including

--the addition of fresh fruits and vegetables for both mothers and children; --an enhanced package for fully breastfeeding mothers; --the establishment of new packages for partially breastfeeding mothers and partially breastfed children; --the emphasis on low-fat options, and more substitutes for milk, --the sharp reduction in juice allocations, --the addition of whole grains.

In order to encourage breastfeeding, I urge the USDA not to establish pilot projects of the new food packages for partially breastfed infants and partially breastfeeding mothers, but to implement them as quickly as possible. However, the issue of whether to provide formula in the first month of an infant's life should be studied in greater detail, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. In addition, all of the proposed changes must be studied carefully to ensure they are achieving their policy goals.

The new WIC food packages will mark a significant change in the eating habits of participating mothers and children. I commend the USDA for its thoughtful proposal, and I appreciate this opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely,

Stephen Cremin-Endes
4840 Durham Road
Guilford, CT 06437

GP-4457

From Merle Descallar [Merle.Descallar@ventura.org]

Sent Monday, November 06, 2006 2:53 PM

To WICHQ-SFPD

Subject re: comments on wic food packages proposed rate docket id
#0584-AD77

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THESE REFORMS. I BELIEVED THAT WHEN
IMPLEMENTED THEY WILL GREATLY STRENGTHEN THE WIC PROGRAM
ABILITY TO IMPROVE THE NUTRITION AND HEALTH OF MILLIONS OF
FAMILIES.

GP-4458

From: Noah Fulmer [noah@farmfreshri.org]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 12:24 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Director Patricia N. Daniels
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Services, USDA
3101 Parke Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

RE: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Revisions in the WIC Food Packages, Proposed Rule, published in the Federal Register on August 7, 2006 [Docket No. 0584-AD77]

Dear Director Daniels,

I live in Providence, Rhode Island and a significant part of my work serves WIC recipients. I strongly support the inclusion of vouchers to purchase fruits and vegetables and the ability to use them at farmers' markets in the proposed WIC food package.

Please incorporate the Institute of Medicine's full recommendations for the amount of fruits and vegetables necessary for a nutritionally adequate children's food package as soon as possible.

Additionally, I strongly believe that the proposed new, expanded use of the WIC "cash-value food instrument" should be coordinated with the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), including automatically allowing WIC FMNP-qualified markets and farmers to redeem the new WIC cash-value food instrument.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Noah Fulmer
125 Tobey St #1
Providence, RI 02909

GP-4459

From WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 2:34 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME: Karen K. Ehrens
EMAIL: karenehrens@bjs.midco.net
CITY: Bismarck
STATE: ND
ORGANIZATION: self
CATEGORY: GeneralPublic
OtherCategory:
Date: November 06, 2006
Time: 02:34:08 PM

COMMENTS:

I commend the USDA on updating the WIC Foods package, these changes based on food current intakes compared to Dietary Guidelines guidance and recommendations were a long time in coming.

I would encourage the USDA to make yogurt available as a substitute for milk products in the WIC package, I make yogurt part of my daily intake. It has benefits to the digestive system in addition to being a source of protein, calcium and other key nutrients.

I applaud the inclusion of fresh fruits and vegetables to the package. These are foods likely to be left out of the diets of families with low incomes, as I have observed in my daughter's friends and other acquaintances. Adequate intake of fruits and vegetables can reduce the incidence of chronic diseases including heart disease, diabetes and cancer. I feel that fruits and vegetables should be available to WIC recipients at Farmers' Market stands. These local enterprises help provide food that has traveled fewer miles and used less fossil fuels in transportation than many fruits and vegetables available through conventional supermarkets. In addition, food purchased at Farmers' Markets keeps the food dollars spent in the local economy. I thank you for the consideration of these comments.

GP-4460

From Dan & Diane Garrett [dandianegarrett@juno.com]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 3:23 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: amelia@psmythe.net
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

I would like to comment on how breastfeeding is advanced in WIC as optimal nutrition:

1. My perception is that the new proposal still has the effect of portraying Formula and Breastmilk as nutritionally equal.
2. Since WIC is going to continue providing formula, I would like suggest that WIC participants be provided with a Formula consent form so that at the very least all involved are making an educated and informed choice
3. In Oregon, WIC food dollars are used to provide breast pumps for moms at work or school; can a dialogue be started about how to do this everywhere?

Please provide a supportive WIC environment so breastfeeding can begin to flourish in this country.

My daughter and I are graduates of the WIC program. I was very grateful for the resource.

Diane Garrett
Breastfeeding Peer Counselor and Lobbyist Nursing Mothers Counsel of Oregon
5923 SE 19th Ave
Portland OR 97202
503-886-9692

GP-4461

From Esther James [estherjames@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 11:01 AM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

I am a citizen and consumer, and supporter of local agriculture in the United States. I volunteer at the farmers' markets in the DC area and am familiar with how WIC dollars can be used to benefit both local family farmers and low-income families. I write to encourage USDA to adopt healthy new WIC food package standards consistent with all the important nutritional guidelines set forth by the IOM, and implement the new rule in a manner that facilitates qualified farmers' market participation.

I understand that USDA's proposed revisions to the WIC nutritional guidelines improve the availability of a variety of healthy foods to the more than 8 million WIC program participants. Overall, the proposed rule would make WIC nutritional guidelines more consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. For the first time, fruits, vegetables, and whole grains would be made available under the packages. It's great that tofu and soy milk would be approved as substitutes for dairy products under the new guidelines.

I am VERY supportive of proposed program revisions that would allow participants to purchase fruits and vegetables at local farmers' markets. But we need more detail about how this aspect of the program would be administered.

Sincerely,

Esther James

8722 Manchester Rd 8
Silver Spring MD 20901

GP-4462

From: WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2006 10:31 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME: Jessica Hirth
EMAIL: jlynn480@hotmail.com
CITY: Hebron
STATE: CT
ORGANIZATION: Uconn Dietetic Intern
CATEGORY: Other
OtherCategory: Currently doing a rotation at Windham WIC in CT
Date: October 28, 2006
Time: 10:31:27 AM

COMMENTS.

I think it is an excellent idea to add fruits and vegetables to the existing WIC food package. It will help participants adopt a healthier lifestyle and increase the chances of meeting dietary needs according to the food guide pyramid. I am all for it

GP-4464.

From Lunt, Trudy [Trudy.Lunt@maine.gov]
Sent Monday, November 06, 2006 10:41 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: WIC Food Package Rule

Docket ID number 0584-AD77

It is definitely time for changes with the WIC food package.

With so many changes and specific foods, I feel it will be a night mare for the stores

I agree with the changes, but not sure how it will all come together

Juice needs to be replaced with fruit, and vegetables to help with the obesity problems with children

Whole wheat bread will be a great way to start families off with the most nutritious bread

GP-4465

From Nancy Chen [NChen@co.riverside.ca.us]
Sent Monday, November 06, 2006 5:22 PM
To WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: comments on new food package

To someone who may concern,

I like the new food packages because it contains fresh fruits and vegetables. Besides, it cuts down on the cheese and eggs. Also to the benefit of the people who are lactose intolerant, now they can purchase soy milk. And we all know more or less that juices are the culprit that cause childhood obesity, so I am glad that we are going to limit the juice amount and replace with fresh fruits and vegetables. To add to that, the changes on any WIC authorized store is a great idea. More convenient for both the participants and staff. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Nancy Chen

GP-4468

From Johnson, Mary - Amherst, MA [mary.johnson@ma.usda.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 9:58 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Comments on proposed WIC changes

Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

I fully support changing the WIC program to foster low-income mothers and children to consume more fruits, veggies and whole grains. The program needs to adapt to changes in the health and nutrition status of our country. Currently obesity and diabetes are some of the biggest health problems facing low-income children in the US. Supporting WIC coupons that foster increasing the consumption of healthier fresh foods and multi-grains would make a giant improvement in the health of our nation's children and mothers. If there is any way to also include a "buy local produce" component to these changes, I would also support that, as locally grown food is usually fresher and therefore has more nutrients than food that has traveled long distances and is older or forced into freshness by artificial means. Encouraging families to utilize their local farmers markets also connects them to a healthier food system and can provide them with opportunities to learn more about the produce they are buying and can help build a stronger bond with nutritious eating. Head-start, school lunch and after school programs should also be able to benefit from WIC coupons for local, fresh fruits and vegetables. If coupons are only able to be used at large groceries or convenience stores, access to fresh healthy choices is very limited for urban mothers. There needs to be more flexibility in where coupons can be redeemed so that urban families have equitable access to healthy foods otherwise the program is institutionally racist due to the factors that exist in urban communities that aren't the same in suburban and rural communities. I support making changes to the WIC program that update its relevance for creating strong and healthy women and children while also making the program more equitable for all families regardless of where they must live.

Thank you,

Mary Johnson,
Amherst, MA 01002

GP-4469

From ngapsis@wesleyan.edu

Sent Monday, November 06, 2006 1:39 AM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

no to the proposed WIC changes. women, infants, and children are in special need for fresh, organic produce which will also support our local farmers and economies please vote no.

GP-4470

From: WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 11 09 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME Linda Ninh
EMAIL lninh02@hotmail.com
CITY Houston
STATE TX
ORGANIZATION:
CATEGORY: Other
OtherCategory: Student
Date November 06, 2006
Time: 11 09 09 AM

COMMENTS.

November 6, 2006

Ms. Patricia N Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Services
U.S Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Comments on WIC Food Packages Proposed Rule,
Docket ID Number 0584-AD77.

Dear Ms. Daniels,

As a minority, I strongly urge for the expansion of the food package available to the WIC participants. Although the food packages seemed nutritionally sufficient for all families, there are flaws that need to be fixed. The packages should be able to be updated and become consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the infant feeding practice guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics. For instance, the dairy aspect of the food package is not nutritionally adequate. This is especially needed for pregnant women and growing children. Another specific area that needs to be updated to is the fruits and vegetables. The package should be expanded to cover more fruits and vegetables to encourage the families to eat a healthier lifestyle. Even though these changes may seem small, they consequently result in fewer incidences of malnutrition. The incidents of families with poor socioeconomic backgrounds are increasing every single day, especially in minorities. Most of the minority community does not even know that proper nutrition is necessary. Even with jobs, the access to more nutritional foods is still limited. Therefore, poor malnutrition is still prevalent throughout

most parts of the country. If we have the chance reduce the incidents of hunger and malnutrition, then we should take the chance to do so. Malnutrition as a whole can lead to disease, and even death. Families should have the opportunity to be able to avoid malnutrition. It is unlikely we can save the country overnight, but we should take every step we can to reduce malnutrition. Through the expanded food package, this goal can be achieved.

Sincerely,

Linda Ninh
Student

GP-4472

From: Crystal Rivero [crystal.rivero@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 7 12 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule
To Whom It May Concern

I have reviewed the recent proposal for change for the WIC program and I commend you on following the IOM's recommendations for change. For most of the changes, I do believe there was careful consideration of reductions or additions to food group packages. However in the case of dairy products, the inability to substitute yogurt for milk is not in the best interest of the WIC population. For those that are lactose intolerant, you allow soy product substitute without regard to culture preferences (e.g. many cultures favor yogurt over soy). I do believe the ability to substitute yogurt for milk will not effect the WIC package cost and would make the over propsoal complete. Please take this in consideration.

Sincerely,

Crystal Rivero, Indiana University dietetic intern
CIDDA, Indianapolis, IN

GP-4474

From: Chris Saccardi [chris.saccardi@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 9:04 AM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

To FDA

I am writing to express my concern that proposed changes to the WIC program would make it more difficult for WIC recipients to use their program benefits to purchase produce at farmers' markets.

I would like to urge the USDA to preserve the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) by not reducing its funding. Farmers' markets should be allowed to participate in the WIC program as seasonal vendors, to be exempt from the "WIC-only" cost containment requirements, and not be required to carry a full-range of WIC food package products. There should also be no limit placed on the type of fresh fruits and vegetables that may be purchased with the new fruit and vegetable coupons.

Thank you,
Chris Saccardi
Brighton, MA

GP-4475

From: WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 2:56 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME: Bradee Skelly
EMAIL: skellyb2@lasalle.edu
CITY: Philadelphia
STATE: PA
ORGANIZATION: LaSalle University
CATEGORY: GeneralPublic
OtherCategory
Date: November 06, 2006
Time: 02 56 07 PM

COMMENTS

I am commenting on this proposed rule because I am in support of the changes that have been recommended for the WIC food package. I am not a WIC recipient, however I know neighbors, family members, and friends that have benefited from this program. It is good to know that WIC is interested in providing nutritious foods for those in need. Thank you for reading my comment.

GP-4476

From Skokos, Athanasia Soula [askokos@iupui.edu]

Sent Monday, November 06, 2006 12 15 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

To whom it may concern:

My name is Soula Skokos and I am a Dietetic Intern and graduate student at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. I am writing to comment on the changes in the WIC food packages. As someone who has a nutritional knowledge base, I feel that reducing the milk available to WIC participants is not appropriate. Yes, they can consume cheese and other dairy products instead but milk is a great way to receive the nutrients one needs and teaches children at a young age how important milk consumption is. Also, other dairy products such as cheeses tend to be higher in fat than 2% milk and can lead to further weight gain and obesity, which was stated in the proposal as an important issue WIC is trying to help control. Some of the suggested changes in the proposal are benefiting the mothers and children of the program, where other proposals such as this could lead to problems including weight gain.

Thank you.

GP-4477

From DThomaso@kdhe.state.ks.us
Sent Monday, November 06, 2006 4:05 PM
To WICHQ-SFPD
Subject Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

November 6, 2006

Patricia N Daniels
Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Service
USDA
3101 Park Center Drive
Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

Docket ID Number: 0584-AD77-WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms Daniels

I am writing to express my support for the proposed rule to change the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children food packages. The proposed changes will greatly benefit vulnerable mothers and children

I am pleased that the proposed rule closely reflects the science-based recommendations of the Institute of Medicine published in their April 2005 report entitled, WIC Food Packages: Time for a Change. The changes reflected in the proposed rule are also consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and national nutrition guidance including those from the American Academy of Pediatrics

I support adding fruits and vegetables to the food packages of women, infants and children while reducing the amount of fruit juice provided.

I support the quantities of dairy products and eggs offered in the proposed rule

I support the whole grain requirement for cereals and the introduction of whole grain bread and other whole grains such as corn tortillas and brown rice

While I commend USDA's efforts in the proposed rule to support the initiation and duration of breastfeeding, I urge that there be no test

period for the partially breastfeeding food packages for women and infants. I believe that deletion of the pilot phase would speed the implementation of these packages. For women who declare themselves as breastfeeding moms, I urge that, consistent with the IOM recommendation, States be given the option to establish criteria under which infant formula may be provided in the first month

To further support breastfeeding, I urge that the cash-value vouchers for fruits and vegetables for fully breastfeeding women be increased to \$10. I believe that this change would be cost-neutral and a significant incentive for breastfeeding mothers.

WIC is our nation's premier public health nutrition program. The long-term benefits of providing participants with fruits and vegetables, lower fat dairy products and whole grains, as well as additional incentives for fully breastfeeding women will greatly aid WIC in improving the life-long health of our most vulnerable women, infants and children.

I urge publication of a final rule by the spring of 2007 to assure timely implementation of the rule's invaluable changes.

Sincerely,

David Thomason
1902 SW 66th St
Topeka, KS 66619

GP-4478

From Kim Tran [kntran2@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 2:07 AM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Hello, my name is Kim Tran and I am currently a student at the University of Houston in Texas. I am writing to express my support for the revisions to the WIC Food Packages-Proposed Rule. WIC has served over 8 million women, infants, and children every month and have established 10,000 clinics all over the nation. These clinics have helped by aiding roughly 1/2 infants born in this country and have saved countless lives. With a program so effective and has such a huge impact, revising it and improving it should be a priority. This is one of the most admirable programs that I have ever learned about so I strongly support and hope that it continues to grow and prosper for the people of this country.

Sincerely,
Kim Tran

GP-4479

From Mei-Jyh Wang [Mei-Jyh_Wang@longbeach.gov]
Sent Monday, November 06, 2006 3:27 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Proposed Food Package Changes

To Whom It May Concern,

I personally feel that this historic and monumental change was due long ago. The United States is a country of many cultures; therefore, many varieties of foods are consumed. The WIC Program came about when different social and health challenges were occurring as well as demographic changes. We need to move on with the sign of the time and that is giving the WIC food package a make over! I applaud those advocates who have fought and proposed these changes before the health challenges we are facing in the 21st century.

Please move forward to making these proposed changes that are sound and reasonable for the population we serve.

Thank you!

GP-4480

From Valerie Wolfe [lifeinspace99@yahoo.com]

Sent. Monday, November 06, 2006 12.18 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

The new food packages are great. Thanks for the positive change.

From,

A member of the public.

GP-4481

From Fred Yaeger [fyaeger@mail.brains4business.com]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 10:01 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Name Fred Yaeger
Organization Self (General Public)
City, State Columbus, OHIO

I support decreasing the amount of eggs, meat, milk and juice and increasing/including whole grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables.

My children are adults now, but I have young grandchildren and they LOVE whole grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables. While they eat some eggs and milk, they do not eat anywhere nearly as much as the current WIC maximums, especially the max for meat, cheese and eggs. They are NOT overweight. According to their pediatrician, they are quite healthy, including NOT overweight. So, lowering the max amount of those products will not be a negative health factor for WIC recipients.

Also, my grandchildren LOVE whole grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables. Some people profess that kids won't eat vegetables. That's just not true. It's all a matter of what they are presented, how it is presented and what they see their parent(s) eat. Kids WILL eat such stuff, so, shifting WIC to cover such foods will NOT be a waste of food - kids will eat it.

GP-4482

From Yancey, Chandra Dee [cyancey@indiana.edu]

Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 1:24 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

In response to the proposed changes dealing with milk products, I think that these changes would be beneficial, especially for lactose intolerant individuals and lacto-ovo-vegans. The fact that they can now substitute soy products will give them more of the nutrients they need that most people get by drinking milk. Also as long as people are supplied with 2-3 cups a day, this is a sufficient amount to get the energy and nutrients they need. Also, lowering the dairy product allowance could also save waste. I also think that lowering the amount of cheese will decrease the saturated fat intake of individuals which could have a long-term effect on lowering the incidence of obesity. However, I do think that yogurt should be allowed to be substituted for milk.

-GP-4483

From: Larry & Linda Yee [llyee@cox.net]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 2:38 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number - 0584AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Sending comments on the proposed WIC food package regulations.

1. Supports issuing fruits and vegetables for women and children and allowed to be used at Farmer's Market. Supports IOM report for increase dollars - \$8 and \$10, instead of \$6 and \$8.
 2. Do not support that vendor rules for farmers in Farmer's Market will be the same as the WIC grocery stores. They are not the same type of vendors. Too much trouble for farmers who only can sell fruits and vegetables grown from their land. Not fair to them.
 3. Supports soy milk and tofu for clients as substitutes for milk without medical documentation. The use of these products can also be for cultural reasons, not just allergies or milk intolerance. Will the industry be allowed enough time to meet the nutrient requirements for these foods?
 4. Supports whole grain. The only problem is it does not address participants with wheat intolerances. Please allow gluten free products for them. Same with lactose-free cheese.
 5. Supports decrease in fruit juice.
 6. Supports tailoring of food packages.
 7. Supports issuing only 1% or non fat milk for participants 2 years and older except for children who are still playing catch-up growth in terms of their prematurity as an infant or who are underweight. Allow whole milk or 2% if child is underweight for height.
 8. Supports greater food package incentives to continue breastfeeding.
- However, I am concerned about using just the food package to support breastfeeding. It will not work if that is the only thing available to the mothers. We all know that first time moms will breastfeed if there are peer support and breastfeeding counseling services readily available to them when they first encounter problems and barriers to breastfeeding, be it personal, i.e. not having enough milk supply, sore nipples, or problem solve going back to work situations. The program should consider adding peer counseling support services in addition to the food package incentives if it truly wants to promote breastfeeding and be successful.

Problems or issues:

1. Avoid the confusing rounding up of number of cans of infant formulas. Each check should have the same number of cans and rounded up to the nearest can since formula companies keep changing the amount (ounces) as well as the dilution factors.
2. Allow clients, when purchasing fruits and vegetables to pay the difference in price. For example, if the produce costs \$6.50 and they are allowed only \$6, let the clients pay the 50 cents out of their pockets.

Just imagine the headache this will cause at the grocery when checking out if they can't quite get the cost just right at \$6 due to weight variation of fresh produce

3. Encourage the states to use debit cards.

4 Most important, allow the states enough time to implement the food packages correctly since this will require planning and programming changes which takes money, staff, and time Give states flexibility in the how and when to implement depending on what is best and feasible for their states with a specific time period by which all foods will be required to be provided to clients

5 Please give additional administrative dollars to implement the changes in the computer system or develop an EBT card for the fruits and vegetables.

GP-4918

From: no-reply@erulemaking.net
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2006 4:25 PM
To: CNDPROPOSAL
Subject: Public Submission

Please Do Not Reply This Email

Public Comments on Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Revisions in the WIC Food Packages:=====

Title: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).
Revisions in the WIC Food Packages FR Document Number 06-06627 Legacy
Document ID:
RIN. 0584-AD77
Publish Date 08/07/2006 00 00 00
Submitter Info

First Name: Sarah
Last Name: Wilson
Mailing Address 1317 4th Ave NE
City. Jamestown
Country United States
State or Province: ND
Postal Code 58401
Organization Name:

Comment Info. =====

General Comment Under NO circumstances should soy-based beverages and tofu be considered alternatives for REAL milk and dairy products in the WIC program This is a TRAVESTY for adults and children alike I am a soybean producer, and have no problem with people consuming soybean products, but in this case I'd rather those beans be fed to dairy cattle, to produce dairy products Nutritionally, there is no substitute for REAL DAIRY products. Even if WIC program participants are lactose intolerant, I believe they should have the option to have lactose-free cow's milk This report states that a "child may be at nutritional risk when milk is replaced with other foods". Why even consider placing an already underprivileged child at a nutritional disadvantage???

GP-4919

From no-reply@erulemaking.net
Sent: Monday, October 02, 2006 2:33 PM
To: CNDPROPOSAL
Subject: Public Submission

Please Do Not Reply This Email.

Public Comments on Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Revisions in the WIC Food Packages =====

Title: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Revisions in the WIC Food Packages FR Document Number. 06-06627 Legacy

Document ID:

RIN: 0584-AD77

Publish Date 08/07/2006 00:00:00

Submitter Info:

First Name: Connie

Last Name: King

Mailing Address:

City:

Country: United States

State or Province:

Postal Code: 90303

Organization Name:

Comment Info: =====

General Comment: I believe the proposed changes are needed to reduce obesity and promote better health for those receiving WIC benefits. They are long overdue and are a good start to teaching healthier eating choices.

GP-4920

From: no-reply@erulemaking.net
Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2006 2:40 PM
To: CNDPROPOSAL
Subject: Public Submission

Please Do Not Reply This Email.

Public Comments on Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Revisions in the WIC Food Packages.=====

Title: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).
Revisions in the WIC Food Packages FR Document Number 06-06627 Legacy
Document ID
RIN: 0584-AD77
Publish Date 08/07/2006 00:00 00
Submitter Info.

First Name Judith
Last Name Boring Surratt
Mailing Address: 1109 West K Street
City Benicia
Country United States
State or Province CA
Postal Code
Organization Name MCAH Member

Comment Info. =====

General Comment: I strongly support this proposed change.

GP-4921

From: no-reply@erulemaking.net
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2006 9:55 AM
To: CNDPROPOSAL
Subject: Public Submission

Please Do Not Reply This Email

Public Comments on Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Revisions in the WIC Food Packages:=====

Title: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
Revisions in the WIC Food Packages FR Document Number: 06-06627 Legacy
Document ID:
RIN: 0584-AD77
Publish Date: 08/07/2006 00 00:00
Submitter Info.

First Name: Debra
Last Name: Dwyer
Mailing Address: 35 Cabot St
City: Salem
Country: United States
State or Province: MA
Postal Code: 01970
Organization Name:

Comment Info. =====

General Comment: I think these revisions are wonderful. I used to receive WIC for myself and for my young children and, though my children had allergies, I was not able to get soy milk or like products. I also think expanding the package for breastfeeding moms and infants is a great idea. This is a better support to those moms when it is otherwise easy to give in to the formula marketing and it will hopefully encourage more mothers on the program to breastfeed.

GP-4922

From: no-reply@erulemaking.net
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2006 3:02 PM
To: CNDPROPOSAL
Subject: Public Submission

Public Comments on Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Revisions in the WIC Food Packages:=====

Title: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Revisions in the WIC Food Packages FR Document Number: 06-06627 Legacy
Document ID.
RIN: 0584-AD77
Publish Date 08/07/2006 00:00:00
Submitter Info:

First Name: Nancy
Last Name Hill
Mailing Address: 597 Center Avenue Suite 365
City: Martinez
Country United States
State or Province CA
Postal Code 94553
Organization Name

Comment Info =====

General Comment Dear Ms Daniels,
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the USDA's proposed regulations that substantially revise the WIC Food Package. I commend the Department for proposing changes to WIC that are consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. When implemented, they will greatly strengthen the WIC program's ability to improve the nutrition and health status of millions of families.

I urge USDA to conduct its analysis of the comments on the Proposed Rule quickly and efficiently and publish a final rule by mid-2007 for the sake of families served by WIC. I strongly support the provision of fruits and vegetables in the WIC package to increase their consumption by low-income families served by WIC.

This proposal will provide stronger incentives for continued breastfeeding by providing less formula to partially breastfed infants and providing additional quantities/types of food for breastfeeding mothers. I urge USDA to raise the cash-value vouchers for fruits and vegetables to the original IOM-recommended amount of \$10 per month.

I look forward to the implementation of these excellent food package improvements.

Sincerely,
Nancy Hill

GP-4923

From: no-reply@erulemaking.net
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2006 11:59 PM
To: CNDPROPOSAL
Subject: Public Submission

Please Do Not Reply This Email

Public Comments on Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Revisions in the WIC Food Packages:=====

Title: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC):
Revisions in the WIC Food Packages FR Document Number: 06-06627 Legacy
Document ID
RIN 0584-AD77
Publish Date 08/07/2006 00:00.00
Submitter Info:

First Name: Lynnette
Last Name: Lockwood
Mailing Address: 4599 4th St
City: La Mesa
Country: United States
State or Province: CA
Postal Code: 91941
Organization Name:

Comment Info: =====

General Comment I want to state my support in favor of the proposed changes to the WIC program food packages. Women should be encouraged to breastfeed their babies since statistics prove that breastfed babies are not only healthier in childhood, but throughout their life. It also creates a bond between mother and baby that could make a difference in better parenting in a world of more frequent family dysfunction. As for adding more fruits and vegetables and including whole grains for toddlers and mothers, that seems like a no-brainer. Let's get them healthy and keep them healthy by encouraging good eating habits early, and possibly putting less strain on our healthcare system in the long run. We can make a difference!

From: no-reply@erulemaking.net
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2006 5:03 PM
To: CNDPROPOSAL
Subject: Public Submission

Please Do Not Reply This Email.

Public Comments on Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Vendor Cost Containment =====

Title: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC):
Vendor Cost Containment FR Document Number: 05-23365 Legacy Document ID
RIN: 0584-AD71
Publish Date: 11/29/2005 00:00:00
Submitter Info:

First Name: Leila
Last Name: Beaver
Mailing Address: PO Box 729
City: Tecumseh
Country: United States
State or Province: NE
Postal Code: 68450
Organization Name: Family Health Services, Inc

Comment Info: =====

General Comment: Breastfeeding mothers should not receive any formula for the first month of the baby's life. At least leave it up to the states
The added fruits and vegetables and meats will be wonderful for the participants
Allowing less or no fruit juice is great.
Baby fruits and vegetables would be helpful. Less formula as the baby gets older is good.
Lower fat milk is good; whole grain foods will be helpful.
Some of these foods might be a little different for the participants and WIC staff to monitor but they are good foods and should be helpful changes.

GP-4925

From: no-reply@erulemaking.net
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2006 10:32 AM
To: CNDPROPOSAL
Subject: Public Submission

Please Do Not Reply This Email.

Public Comments on Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Revisions in the WIC Food Packages:=====

Title: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC):
Revisions in the WIC Food Packages FR Document Number: 06-06627 Legacy
Document ID.
RIN: 0584-AD77
Publish Date: 08/07/2006 00:00:00
Submitter Info:

First Name: Kate
Last Name: Shelley
Mailing Address: 1700 Ben Franklin Parkway, the windsor
City: Philadelphia
Country: United States
State or Province: PA
Postal Code: 19103
Organization Name: Nutritional Development Services

Comment Info: =====

General Comment: Dear Ms. Daniels and Friends at the US Department of Agriculture,

I am writing this note to let you know that I support the changes that have been recommended for the WIC food package. Although I am not a recipient, I know neighbors and friends that have benefited from this program. It is good to know that you are interested in providing additional nutritious foods for those in need. The use of milk alternatives such as soy, fresh fruits and vegetables and tofu will help many who are allergic to dairy products or chose not to use them. It is so important to provide fresh, nutritious foods to a high risk population. As a nutrition student I am devoted to helping make a change for a healthier future and this change is step in the right direction. Thank you for reading my comments.

GP-4927

From: no-reply@erulemaking.net
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2006 10:18 AM
To: CNDPROPOSAL
Subject: Public Submission

Please Do Not Reply This Email

Public Comments on Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Revisions in the WIC Food Packages.=====

Title: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
Revisions in the WIC Food Packages FR Document Number: 06-06627 Legacy
Document ID.
RIN: 0584-AD77
Publish Date 08/07/2006 00:00 00
Submitter Info.

First Name Colleen
Last Name Collins
Mailing Address 33 Summit Road
City: Holbrook
Country: United States
State or Province MA
Postal Code 02343
Organization Name

Comment Info: =====

General Comment: Please adopt the recommended changes to the WIC food packages. What we now know about nutrition and the food necessary to ensure life-long health and healthy eating habits requires a change to the existing food packages. I support the proposed changes, especially in regards to eliminating and/or reducing juice and offering vouchers for fruit and vegetables

GP-4928

From: Becky Bykowski [beckyby@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 6:53 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Package Rules

As a member of the Student Nutrition Organization of San Diego State University, future Dietitian, and supporter of the Women, Infants and Children Program, I heartily support the proposed changes to the program.

Rebecca Bykowski
San Diego, CA

GP-4929

From: Lauren and Aaron Cornelius [corneliusfamily@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 9:25 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dir Sir or Madam,

I am excited about the new proposed changes, partly because it seems to expand options and open access to the benefits of WIC to the millions of people in this country whose dietary restrictions (whether due to health or culture) cannot eat the current nutritional package.

This may also help people unfamiliar with nutrition options greater access to and experience with nutritional choices

WIC is a great aid to families that are stuck in the working class - too rich for most assistant but too poor to survive otherwise. My hope is that there may be some marriage between Food Stamps and WIC in order to avoid duplication of benefits. This may allow for a more equitable distribution of resources to this class.

Lauren Cornelius

GP-4930

From: Merle Descallar [Merle.Descallar@ventura.org]

Sent Monday, November 06, 2006 6 05 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: comments on WIC FOOD

I strongly support these reforms. I strongly believe that if these changes are implemented, they will strongly strengthen the wic program

They will improve the ability to improve the nutrition and health of millions of families

GP-4931

From WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 6:32 PM
To WICHQ-SFPD
Subject RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME: Sue Dumm
EMAIL: csdumm@bsu.edu
CITY: Indianapolis
STATE: Indiana
ORGANIZATION: Ball State University/Graduate Student
CATEGORY Other
OtherCategory: Graduate Student/Dietetics
Date: November 06, 2006
Time: 06 31 35 PM

COMMENTS:

November 5, 2006

Ms Patricia N. Daniels
Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division Food and Nutrition Service United
States Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive
Room 528
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Dear Ms. Daniels,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. From the Federal Register publication (7 CFR Part 246) it is clear that Food and Nutrition Services is concerned not only about the health of infants and mothers but also the justification of the proposed expense to the taxpayer.

I strongly support the proposed rule changes recommending that the WIC program be brought up-to-date with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Of particular importance are those provisions for

- Vouchers to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables
- Requirements for whole grains in breads and cereals
- Reduction of fat content in milk and canned goods

With the skyrocketing healthcare costs these proposed changes will provide some measure of prevention.

One concern that I would like to express, however, is the seeming lack of a provision for future updates. According to the Federal Register, the last major update to the WIC program occurred around 1980. By the time these changes are implemented it will have been over 25 years since the previous update. However, there appears to be no allowance for future revisions. With the marked change in demographics and cultural diversity reported in the Federal Register, such a provision would seem important

Although currently a student, I have spent many years in private industry and have found that incremental changes over time are generally less expensive than large one-time updates. I would propose, therefore, that the ruling include a provision tying future WIC program changes either to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans or Healthy People 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed updates to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program ---
And thank you for the time and consideration that I am sure each letter requires!

Very truly yours,

Sue Dumm
8020 Talliho Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana 46256

GP-4932

From no-reply@erulemaking.net
Sent Monday, November 06, 2006 5:22 PM
To: CNDPROPOSAL
Subject: Public Submission

Please Do Not Reply This Email

Public Comments on Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Revisions in the WIC Food Packages.=====

Title Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
Revisions in the WIC Food Packages FR Document Number 06-06627 Legacy
Document ID
RIN 0584-AD77
Publish Date: 08/07/2006 00.00 00
Submitter Info:

First Name Jacque
Last Name Funk Clark
Mailing Address PO BOX 2474
City KEALAKEKUA
Country: United States
State or Province: HI
Postal Code 96750
Organization Name.

Comment Info: =====

General Comment: I strongly support the proposed regulations to modify the WIC program to include alternatives that more closely match standard nutritional and pediatric guidelines.

As a WIC participant, I have found the supplemental guidelines very limiting due to health and cultural reasons. The changes are needed to assist in meeting special food needs

GP-4933

From: mm2870@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 11:57 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: PROPOSED CHANGES

Dear Sirs,

I would like to give my comments about the WIC program. I am very grateful. I think to add fresh fruits and vegetables would be extremely wise. There are posters everywhere explaining to eat five a day, do you know how much they cost? Also, it would be extremely helpful if a loaf of bread or breads were added.

Thank you so much

Madonna Hamelin

Docket ID 0584-AD77. WIC Food Package Rule

GP-4934

From: Karen Stanley [kstanley@ci.bloomington mn us]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 10.05 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID#0584-AD77 WIC Food Packages Rule

I am an enthusiastic supporter of the IOM recommendations for changes in the WIC food packages and I commend USDA for implementing these changes. I have just 3 comments to make in regard to the changes. The first is to ask you to waive the medical documentation requirement for soy beverages as it would place an undue burden on the WIC staff and delay participants from getting the soy beverages that they would prefer. The next is to implement, without the pilot phase, the proposed rule for fully breastfeeding, partially breastfeeding, and full formula packages. The last is to give the states the option to provide the breastfeeding infant in the first month no formula or one can of powdered formula as recommended.

Thank you for receiving my comments.

GP-4935

email 11-06-06 through erulemaking from

First Name Alexis

Last Name Petrucci

Mailing Address: 1331 Jericho Road

City: Abington

Country: United States

State or Province: PA

Postal Code: 19001

Organization Name:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this note to let you know that I am in support of the changes that have been recommended for the WIC food package. Although I am not a WIC recipient, I know neighbors, friends and family members that benefit from this program. It is good to know that you are interested in providing additional nutritious foods for those in need. Use of milk alternatives such as soy, fresh fruits and vegetables and tofu will help many who are allergic to dairy products or who choose not to use them. Thank you for reading my comments

GP-4936

From: Swailha@aol.com
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 10 54 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77 WIC Food Packages Rule

After reviewing the food package suggestions I want to express my disappointment with some proposed changes

1- Not giving any formula to infants until one month old who are breastfed from birth if there is a problem with supply of human milk. This is a punishment for the infant and the mother for not being able to fully breastfeed. The decrease in allowance of formula for infants over six months is too restrictive

2- Limiting the eggs to only 1 dozen is not acceptable. Eggs are an excellent source of protein particularly for the consumer who cannot afford meat

3- The elimination of juice will send the WIC client to the store to buy sugary drinks like Sunny Delight or Kool Aid not cut the sugar content of the diet but increase it without any benefit of vitamins. Decreasing the juice amount is a better alternative.

4- Bread is an accessible food at an acceptable price to the consumer. It does not meet Federal guidelines for fiber content and the industry would have to reformulate to meet standards thus increasing the price of a staple food for all consumers.

4- WIC should continue to educate consumers on making their own baby food. Cultural diversity in foodstuffs would be introduced appropriately and not require an additional food cost for the WIC program. Jarred baby food is not a needed item. Plus, the amounts of jar foods for formula fed and breastfed infants are not fairly distributed.

5- Issuing checks for produce is an excellent idea. This is a positive message to encourage eating fresh produce.

6- Including canned beans and a variety of canned fish is accommodating the need for convenience and choice of safe protein.

7- Soy milk is another item that does not meet the guideline for protein and calcium content; to modify this foodstuff to meet standards would increase the cost of soy milk for the entire population including WIC food dollars. This should be a special food item.

GP-4937

From: barberic_K@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2006 12:16 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number: 0584-AD77-WIC Food Packages Rule

November 4, 2006

Patricia N. Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division, FNS/USDA
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

Docket ID Number 0584-AD77-WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels:

I am writing to express my support of the Washington State WIC Nutrition Program and for the proposed rule to change the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children food packages. I strongly support the intent of the changes in the proposed rule, which is a significant step forward to improve the overall health of WIC mothers and children, contributing to reductions in obesity and other diet-related chronic diseases.

The key points of my comments are summarized below, listed by content area:

Food packages and foods

- a. I support the changes proposed in food package II. However, I recommend the amount of infant cereal be reduced.
- b. I support the addition of commercial infant food fruits and vegetables, and fresh bananas in food package II.
- c. I support the proposal not to allow low-iron formula through the WIC program.
- d. I support the clarification that state agencies would not require verification of vitamin C content for 100 percent citrus juices.
- e. I support all other changes in food package IV through VII, except as noted in the 8 items below.
- f. I recommend single-grain corn and rice cereals be included, and that certain adult cereals be added for infants ready for finger foods.
- g. I urge FNS to allow states to expand the list of fruits and vegetables in food package II to include fresh, frozen or other canned fruits and vegetables.
- h. I urge FNS to reconsider the addition of yogurt in quarts as a milk alternative.
- i. I urge FNS to establish an alternative minimum nutrient standard for soy beverages.

j. I urge FNS to use this opportunity to recognize breastfeeding as a cost containment measure and to allow for conversion of food fund savings to Nutrition Services and Administration when supported by high breastfeeding rates

a. I urge FNS to revise regulations regarding client sanctions to include wording in support of group-based food delivery systems.

b. I urge FNS to clarify ages for different infant food packages

c. I oppose requiring medical prescriptions for non-dairy sources of calcium and additional cheese in food packages IV through VII

Fruits and vegetables

a. I enthusiastically support adding fruits and vegetables to the WIC food package.

b. I recommend FNS allow clients to pay the difference when their purchase exceeds the coupon cash value, as one option to simplify redemption.

c. I recommend inclusion of white potatoes, which are similar to bananas, parsnips and turnips in nutrient content. Excluding them adds complexity of administering this benefit and will cause confusion at the check-out stand.

d. I urge FNS to allow state agencies to determine the dollar denomination on the cash-value food instruments.

e. I urge FNS to allow states to utilize existing Farmers' Market Nutrition Program vendor selection and coupon redemption procedures.

Infant formula food packages

a.. I support the three infant feeding options for ages 2-5 months, but recommend FNS allow the Certified Professional Authority to tailor the infant formula food package during the first month of life

b.. I recommend the amount of infant formula and infant foods be rounded up or down and given at the same level each month, to simply processing significantly

c. I urge implementation of the three food packages concurrently, and oppose piloting the partially breastfeeding food package changes

d.. I strongly oppose the proposed rule that the mother must choose either a full formula food package or a breastfeeding food package and no formula. I am concerned this rule will have adverse effects on the WIC client's interest in and ability to breastfeed

Medical documentation

a. I am concerned the proposed requirement of WIC staff to receive medical documentation prior to providing food packages containing soy-based beverages, tofu, and additional cheese will create barriers to those clients for whom the consumption of these foods may be a cultural/personal preference. I oppose the requirement because the preference is often not a medical issue, the requirement is costly in terms of time and use of the health care system, and it undermines WIC's efforts to provide culturally appropriate foods. A number of populations obtain these foods due to cultural preferences, and not medical need

- Medical formulas / foods -

a I recommend limiting medical foods supplied by WIC to pediatric formulas which are nutrient dense beyond one year of age. Because the administration of medical foods is a very complex solution for a very small percentage of WIC clients (less than 2% of all clients), I would urge you to reconsider the inclusion of all medical foods.

a. If FNS does include medical foods, I urge the maximum monthly amount be determined by a nutritional assessment by a qualified dietitian with approval of the client's medical provider.

Timeline for implementing juice elimination

a I recommend the juice elimination be included in the same timeline as the other proposed changes. Implementing one change ahead of a large number of others is inefficient and unnecessarily complicates training of staff and clients.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule. The long-term benefits of providing participants with fruits and vegetables, lower fat dairy products and whole grains, as well as additional incentives for fully breastfeeding women will greatly aid WIC in improving the life-long health of our most vulnerable women, infants and children.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Krogstad
Citizen Proponent of the WIC Program
23909 123rd St E
Buckley, WA 98321
barberic_K@comcast.net

From CalifGrl42@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2006 12:39 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

After reviewing the food package suggestions I want to express my disappointment with some proposed changes

1- Not giving any formula to infants until one month old who are breast fed from birth if there is a problem with supply of human milk. This is a punishment for the infant and the mother for not being able to fully breast feed. The decrease in allowance of formula for infants over six months is too restrictive.

2- Limiting the eggs to only 1 dozen is not acceptable. Eggs are an excellent source of protein particularly for the consumer who cannot afford meat.

3- The elimination of juice will send the WIC client to the store to buy sugary drinks like Sunny Delight or Kool Aid, not cut the sugar content of the diet but increase it without any benefit of vitamins. Decreasing the juice amount is a better alternative.

4- Bread is an easily accessible food at an acceptable price to the consumer. It does not meet Federal guidelines for fiber content and the industry would have to reformulate to meet standards, thus increasing the price of a staple food for all consumers.

4- WIC should continue to educate consumers on making their own baby food. Cultural diversity in foodstuffs would be introduced appropriately and not require an additional food cost for the WIC program. Jarred baby food is not a needed item. Plus, the amounts of jar foods for formula fed and breast fed infants are not fairly distributed.

5- Issuing checks for produce is an excellent idea. This is a positive message to encourage eating fresh produce.

6- Including canned beans and a variety of canned fish is accommodating the need for convenience and choice of safe protein.

Sonja A. Wajih

From. no-reply@erulemaking.net
Sent. Wednesday, October 25, 2006 3:36 PM
To CNDPROPOSAL
Subject Public Submission

Please Do Not Reply This Email.

Public Comments on Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Revisions in the WIC Food Packages =====

Title. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Revisions in the WIC Food Packages FR Document Number. 06-06627 Legacy Document ID.

RIN: 0584-AD77

Publish Date: 08/07/2006 00 00:00

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Last Name Sanchez
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Country United States
State or Province NM
Postal Code 87113
Organization Name University of New Mexico Dietetic Internship

Comment Info =====

General Comment: I am in the dietetic intership through the University of New Mexico. As part of my community rotation, I was placed at various WIC clinics in Albuquerque, NM and surrounding areas. During my experience at WIC, I have seen a tremendous need for changes in the food packages. The new packages will be better for WIC clients and WIC nutrition professionals. The clients will be able to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables year round, rather than just during the farmers' market months. The nutrition professionals will be able to modify the food packages to better tailor clients' needs and preferences. The new food packages are much better suited to parallel the nutritional goals and recommendations that WIC promotes for better health.

GP-4942

From. WebMaster@fns usda.gov
Sent Thursday, November 02, 2006 12:34 PM
To. WICHQ-SFPD
Subject RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME: Melissa Prophet
EMAIL: mprophet@aoc.gov
CITY: Suitland
STATE: MD
ORGANIZATION: Architect of the Capitol
CATEGORY: WICLocalAgency
OtherCategory:
Date: November 02, 2006
Time: 12 34:22 PM

COMMENTS:

Please put more nutritional food on the WIC Program.

From: Karla Lewis, [wilkar7672@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 10:39 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: "Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

Patricia N. Daniels
Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division Food and Nutrition Service USDA
3101 Park Center Drive
Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

"Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

Dear Ms. Daniels:

I am writing to thank USDA/FNS for its efforts in bringing the WIC food packages in alignment with the 2005 US Dietary Guidelines and other national nutrition guidance, including those of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The WIC Food Package Proposed Rule offers the most significant and substantive changes to the food packages since the Program's inception in 1974.

The proposed changes add fruits and vegetables, whole grain cereals and other whole grains, soy milk, tofu and canned beans, among others, which provide a greater variety of high nutrient food choices to the WIC participants. These additions will allow WIC to better meet the needs of its culturally diverse population. However, not having any exemptions to the no formula in the first month policy will cause mothers to not truthfully share their breastfeeding status. I think there should be an exception of 1-2 cans of formula (or more) where medically indicated or strongly preferred. While I know that it can be possibly have negative side effects, I think that totally refusing to issue formula during the first month will yield worse side effects--mothers not breastfeeding or at least not telling us.

Currently, WIC serves 8.2 million women, infants and children. Approximately half of all infants and 25% of all children under 5 in the US participate in WIC. The revised food packages will help our nation's families to establish healthy eating habits - a key to preventing obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

I support the NWA positions on the USDA proposal to revise the WIC food package and urge USDA to finalize the rule with revisions as suggested by NWA as soon as possible.

Karla Lewis,
166 S. Highland Ave. #3
Nyack, NY 10960

GP-4945

From Maryanne Salsbury [msalsbury@metrohealth.org]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 9:54 PM
To WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: "Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

Patricia N. Daniels
Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division Food and Nutrition Service USDA
3101 Park Center Drive
Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

"Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

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Currently, WIC serves 8.2 million women, infants and children. Approximately half of all infants and 25% of all children under 5 in the U.S participate in WIC. The revised food packages will help our nation's families to establish healthy eating habits - a key to preventing obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

I eagerly support the addition of fortified soy milk to allow for a substitution of milk for women and children. This allowable substitution will positively impact those women and children who suffer from milk protein allergy, lactose maldigestion and those with cultural preferences. I urge that children be able to receive soy products without the requirement of medical documentation. I suggest that States be given the option to provide the breastfeeding infant, in the first month with 1) No formula or 2) one can of powdered formula as recommended in the IOM Report. Not allowing any formula in the first month for the breastfeeding infant, in theory might sound as though it will encourage mothers to breastfeed more, from my experience with the WIC program, I feel breastfeeding mothers who are not completely confident in their ability to breastfeed, would rather take the full formula package than walk out of the WIC clinic with no formula. The end result will be less breastfeeding and more formula feeding.

I support the NWA positions on the USDA proposal to revise the WIC food package and urge USDA to finalize the rule with revisions as suggested by NWA as soon as possible.

Maryanne Salsbury
3571 Ridge Road
Cleveland, OH 44102

GP-4946

From: Doreen Radford [doreenr.uchlth.utahcounty@state ut.us]
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2006 4:04 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77-WIC Food Packages Rule

I am writing to express my support for the proposed rule to change the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants, and Children Food Packages.

It is encouraging that the proposed rule closely reflects the science based recommendations of the Institute of Medicine published in 2005. The changes are also consistent with recommendations of the 2005 Dietary Recommendations for Americans and national nutritional recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

If WIC is to continue to be a premier health program, we must be in line with the new dietary recommendations. As a dietitian working in the WIC program it is difficult to justify why WIC has a food package that offers high levels of fruit juice, a fairly high level of fat and cholesterol and a low level of fiber. It is difficult to counsel clients on restricting fruit juice, increasing fruits and vegetables and fiber in their diet, and reducing fats and cholesterol in their diets when the food package does not comply with these recommendations.

I strongly support the addition of fruits and vegetables to the food package, but would like to recommend that the amount be increased to the by \$2.00 for breastfeeding women to comply with the original IOM recommendation.

I strongly support the addition of whole grains in the form of whole wheat products, corn tortillas and brown rice. I do have some concerns about the the new recommendations about formula and breastfeeding women and would encourage that states be given the option to establish criteria under which infants could receive some formula in the first month.

These changes are long overdue, our current food package is not in compliance with current dietary recommendations, and I would urge USDA to push these changes through in the interest of providing good nutrition care and a food package in compliance with recognized good practices.

Doreen L Radford
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